BLIZZARD ENTERTAINMENT
#3
WORLD OF WARCRAFT
LEGION
DARK HORSE COMICS
HIGHMOUNTAIN
A MOUNTAIN DIVIDED
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IN THE TERRITORY OF THE HIGHMOUNTAIN TRIBE...
HAS EVERYONE ARRIVED?
GOOD.
YES. EVEN DARGRUL CAME.
HMMF. IF YOU SAY SO.
THE "UNDERKING" IS EXTRA PRICKLY TODAY. HE EVEN BROUGHT A BODYGUARD.
IT DOESN'T MATTER.
THE BURNING LEGION IS COMING. WE MUST STAND TOGETHER.
AH, MAYLA! NOW WE CAN BEGIN.
TOOK YOU LONG ENOUGH, RONIR.
WATCH YOUR MOUTH, DROGBAR.
MY SINCEREST APOLOGIES, TAUREN.
I'M CERTAIN THE GREAT CHIEFTAIN'S DAUGHTER HAD A GOOD REASON TO KEEP US WAITING.
I WITNESSED THE ALLIANCE AND THE HORDE'S COUNTERATTACK AGAINST THE LEGION.
IT FAILED.

WERE THEY WIPED OUT?
NO, FATHER.
THE SURVIVORS ARE RETREATING. BUT THEY ARE HOLDING THE LEGION'S ATTENTION.
THAT MAY GRANT US A LITTLE MORE TIME TO PREPARE.
LET US HOPE SO.
SPIRITWALKER EBONHORN, YOU SPOKE OF "SALVATION" WHEN YOU CALLED THIS MEETING.
TELL US WHAT YOU KNOW.
THE SPIRITS HAVE BEEN GENEROUS.
THEY HAVE SHOWN ME HOW THE PAST... AND THE PRESENT... ARE LINKED.
REMEMBER OUR HISTORY. OUR ANCESTORS STOOD FIRM AGAINST--
IS THIS A JOKE?
AN ARMY OF DEMONS MARCHES ON MY LAND, AND YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT HISTORY?
THERE IS ONLY ONE THING WORTH DISCUSSING HERE.
THAT. THE HAMMER OF KHAZ'GOROTH.
HAVE YOU RONIR FINALLY GATHERED THE COURAGE TO LET SOMEONE USE IT?
IS THERE NO END TO YOUR DISRESPECT TODAY?
THERE HAD BETTER BE. OR THERE WILL BE.

WE ARE CHARGED WITH PROTECTING THE HAMMER OF KHAZ'GOROTH.
BUT WE ARE FORBIDDEN TO USE IT. THAT HAS NOT CHANGED.
WELL...
THAT IS WHY I CALLED THIS GATHERING, CHIEFTAIN.
OUR DUTY OF STEWARDSHIP HAS COME TO AN END.
I WAS DRAWN DEEP INTO THE MOUNTAIN.
I DELVED INTO NELTHARION'S LAIR.
THE SPIRITS HAVE LEFT US A MESSAGE.
"CHAMPIONS HAVE ARISEN.
"THE HAMMER OF KHAZ'GOROTH SHALL EMPOWER THEM.
"ALL THE PEOPLES OF AN UNDIVIDED HIGHMOUNTAIN SHALL AID THEM.
"AND THE BURNING LEGION SHALL FALL.
"THUS DO THE SPIRITS COMMAND US.
"AND ONCE THESE CHAMPIONS ARRIVE HERE, WE MUST--"
ARRIVE? THEY AREN'T OF HIGHMOUNTAIN?
NO. THEY WILL COME FROM AFAR.

WHAT?!
THE HAMMER IS *OUR* DUTY.
THE SPIRITS ARE WRONG, EBONHORN.
YOUR ANCESTOR HULN HIGHMOUNTAIN USED THE HAMMER TO DRIVE *DEATHWING* FROM THESE ISLANDS.
ITS POWER BELONGS TO *THIS* LAND.
AGREED.
SPIRITWALKER... ARE YOU *CERTAIN?*
YES. THE HAMMER OF KHAZ'GOROTH IS MEANT FOR OTHERS. WE WHO LIVE HERE ARE BOUND BY FATE TO AID THEM.
I UNDERSTAND.
THE HIGHMOUNTAIN TRIBE WILL OBEY THE SPIRITS.
THE SKYHORN TRIBE WILL OBEY.
THE RIVERMANE TRIBE WILL OBEY.
HMMF... THE BLOODTOTEM TRIBE WILL OBEY.
STUPID, BLIND RONIR FOOLS.

YOU ARE NOT THE ONLY ONE WHO VISITED NELTHARION'S LAIR, SPIRITWALKER.
I SAW NOTHING OF OUTSIDERS!
I SAW STRENGTH DRIVING BACK THE LEGION!
AND ALL OF YOU WOULD SO EASILY FORSAKE YOUR ONLY POWER?
NO!
NONE OF YOU DESERVES TO WIELD IT.
SO I WILL.
WHOOOM

TREACHERY!
SHINK
IDIOT!
YOU'RE STARTING A WAR.
THUMP
STARTING?
CRACKLE
DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND?
"I CAME HERE TO END THE WAR.
"THE BURNING LEGION CANNOT BE REASONED WITH.
"AND I KNEW YOU RONIR WOULD NOT ACT.
"I WILL NOT LET MY PEOPLE'S FATE REST IN YOUR HANDS ANY LONGER."
SO STAY OUT OF MY WAY.
NO.

END THIS STUPIDITY.
WE RELY ON ONE ANOTHER TO SURVIVE HERE, DARGRUL.
NOT ANYMORE, HIGHMOUNTAIN.
NO? YOUR TRIBE CANNOT GROW ENOUGH FOOD UNDERGROUND.
YOU *NEED* US.
WALK DOWN THIS ROAD, AND YOUR PEOPLE WILL *STARVE*.
YOU'RE RIGHT. YOU HAVE WHAT WE NEED.
SO WE WILL *TAKE* IT. WE WILL TAKE ALL OF HIGHMOUNTAIN.
NONE OF YOU CAN STOP ME.
=COUGH COUGH=
=COUGH COUGH=
=COUGH COUGH=
THIS WAS NOT...
I DIDN'T MEAN FOR THIS TO HAPPEN.
BUT IT DID.

WE HAVE TO RECLAIM THE HAMMER OF KHAZ'GOROTH.
TOGETHER.
CHIEFTAINS. TELL ME HOW MANY YOUR TRIBES CAN SPARE FOR THE HUNT.
MAYLA...
HOW MANY?
IT'S THE HAMMER OF KHAZ'GOROTH. WHAT CAN WE DO?
MY TERRITORY WILL TAKE THE BRUNT OF THE FIGHTING. I CANNOT SPARE ANYONE.
YOU HEARD THE DROGBAR. HE WILL USE IT AGAINST OUR VILLAGES.
I'M SORRY, MAYLA. WE HAVE TO GO.
YOUR FATHER WOULD HAVE UNDERSTOOD.
IF WE DO NOT STAND TOGETHER NOW, HIGHMOUNTAIN FALLS.
"DIVIDED, WE PERISH.
"AND WITHOUT THE HAMMER, THERE CAN BE NO UNITY.
"BUT WE ARE NOT DEAD YET.
"THE BURNING LEGION IS COMING.
"AND ONLY AN UNDIVIDED HIGHMOUNTAIN CAN HELP STOP IT.
"IF THE HAMMER IS WHAT WILL REUNITE US... I WILL GET IT BACK."
END